

MISSIONARY SURVEYS

A SERIES OF PAMPHLETS DESCRIBING
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SOUTH INDIA

THE TELUGU MISSION

1. A People Without a Country

THE Telugus are one of the most ancient races* of India, but now they have no country called by their own name. They occupy a territory in South India somewhat larger than New England in area, and extending from a point near Madras northward a distance of 700 miles. In population they number about 20,000,000. "If that man had a white face, he would be the image of my father," exclaimed one of our missionaries after meeting a certain Telugu. Their skin is very dark but their features are strikingly Caucasian. They live in a region often visited by famine and many of them are very poor. The fact that they have been taught for ages by the Brahmans that it is perfectly respectable to beg and to live by one's merits has not encouraged honest labor! They are a dependent people and rightly called a "nation of children."

2. Hinduism

The religion of most of the Telugus is Hinduism. Its idolatry is bewildering, claiming to recognize 330,000,000 gods, whose images are hideous and revolting. The cruelties

of the system tend to destroy all human feeling. It is inexpressibly vile and degrading, yet from among these idolaters God has claimed a people for himself. Paul might say to the Telugu Christians as he did to the Corinthians, "And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus."

3. The Story of the "Lone Star"

In 1835 Rev. Amos Sutton, an English Baptist missionary of Orissa, was in this country and spoke before the Triennial Convention at Richmond. His earnest appeal to American Baptists to establish a mission among the Telugus received a favorable response. Rev. Samuel Day, the first missionary who was sent out, settled at Nellore, which for 26 years was the only station of the mission.

The Weary Waiting

The Telugus did not receive the gospel readily. Year after year went by, and scarcely a convert was gained. Of the little church of seven members in 1846, only two were Telugus, and Mr. Day was compelled to leave them and come to America on account of illness. A wonderful thing in the story of this mission is the way the missionaries loved the Telugus "while they were yet sinners." "Do not give up the mission," pleaded Mr. Day, "but give me a man to return with me"; and in response Lyman Jewett went with him in 1848.

The "Lone Star"

But those at home had not the faith of those on the field. A deputation from America, which visited Nellore, found such meager results that they were inclined to consider discontinuing the mission. The question came up for decision at Albany in 1853. One speaker said, pointing to a map where the stations were marked by stars, "There are many to care for the brilliant constellation in Burma, but who will care for the lone star of Nellore?" That phrase stirred the faith and poetic vision of Samuel F. Smith, and that night he wrote the hymn "Lone Star":

Shine on, "Lone Star," thy radiance bright
Shall spread o'er all the eastern sky.

It was then decided to reenforce the Telugu Mission.

Prayer Meeting Hill

Wonderful was the faith of those laborers! In 1854 Mr. Jewett and his wife visited Ongole with some native helpers. Upon the hill above the town they knelt in prayer. "Julia," said Mr. Jewett to his Bible woman, pointing to a spot near by, "would not that be a good place for a mission house?" In 1861 a house on that very place came into Mr. Jewett's possession, and Dr. Clough lived there when, later, he went to Ongole. Still the mission did not prosper, and in 1862 it was again proposed to abandon it. Mr. Jewett, then in this country, said that he would never abandon the Telugus, but would return and die there. "Well then," said the Secretary, "we must send somebody with you, to give you Christian burial." Rev. John E. Clough was appointed in 1864 and returned with Mr. Jewett.

"Ye See Your Calling"

Mr. Clough remained a short time in Nellore, but his particular destination was Ongole. There he organized the little church on January 1, 1876, with eight members. At first the caste people showed much interest, but they said, "If the outcastes are received, we must go away." A crisis was at hand, but in a providential manner the attention of the missionary was called to the words of Paul, "Ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called"; and so he decided to preach to all who would listen, regardless of class.

The Great Ingathering

In 1875 came the beginning of the great ingathering of the Telugus and the gospel seed which had been sown faithfully for so many years began to bear fruit. In 1876 a great famine fell upon the land which caused untold suffering among these people. When the famine was over, Dr. Clough discovered that there were actually thousands of converts who were ready to be baptized, and on July 3, 1878, 2,222 were baptized in the Gundlakamma River. Large numbers of baptisms continued every year until 1890, when another great revival occurred. On December 28, 1890, 1,671 converts were baptized at Ongole, and nearly 10,000 altogether in various parts of the field in five months.

4. Changing Attitude of the Caste People

The people of the great Sudra caste, the middle class, are showing remarkable friendliness in many places, not only towards the missionaries but also towards the hitherto despised native Christians. At several stations Sudras are openly becoming disciples and entering the churches, while large numbers have privately acknowledged themselves Christians, but fear to break their caste relationships. Even the Brahmans in several places are laying aside their supercilious air of superiority and are showing respect and friendliness to the Christians. Large ingatherings from the caste peoples may be expected before long.

5. Development

The large ingatherings have necessitated careful division of the field, the opening of many new stations and the sending of a large number of missionaries. Educational, industrial and medical work have been the natural outgrowth of the great harvest. The Ramapatnam Theological Seminary and the high schools are doing a great work among our young people, while schools of lower grades for both boys and girls are laying broad foundations. Industrial work is yet in the experimental stage, and ways and means for promoting self-support call for much prayerful consideration. That they in their poverty support a home mission society and a foreign mission in Natal, is inspiring to us, and proves how God has rewarded the faith of the early missionaries and the efforts of those laboring there in later years.

South India Literature

Appeal of India	Price \$.40
Clough, John E., Missionary to the Telugus10
India Awakening75
Missions in South India. An historical sketch10
Social Christianity in the Orient	1.50
South India: Missionary Surveys01
Guide Book25

Catalog giving list of general literature on South India free. Annual report of Society free on receipt of 10 cents to cover postage.